

KITCHEN AMENDMENT ITEM 6

FEB 25, 2021

Amend Mayor Adler Amendment 1 to Item 6, by adding the following bullet to the end:

- Recommendations for formalizing and improving the city's and the community's notification and disaster response systems for vulnerable seniors living in the community and for persons with disabilities, including systems for welfare checks, in consultation with the City of Austin Age Friendly Program Coordinator, the Commission on Seniors, and the Mayors Committee for People with Disabilities. The City Manager shall endeavor to report on recommended actions by September 1st.

RATIONALE:

We have the opportunity to build on and learn from the Senior Welfare Checks that were completed over the past week to deliver water, food, and medical assistance to older people in need in our community. Hundreds of community volunteers reached over 14,000 people, provided support during the calls, and identified over 1,000 people for Wellness Checks and water/food delivery. Our City Staff and public safety professionals coordinated with this effort, along with ADRN and many other volunteers.

My office used our learnings from the COVID-19 Well-Check Program last year to initiate and coordinate this effort. I want to thank the Mayor for marshaling the resources to make the community effort happen, as well as my colleagues who all participated and helped ensure the safety of their constituents.

I also want to recognize the efforts of so many in our community to deliver water to seniors and persons living with disabilities in apartment complexes throughout the city that lost water and power. I especially want to thank the Austin Firefighters Association and neighbors who stepped in to help people living in complexes in their neighborhoods.

We can learn from all these efforts and build a better, more resilient system for helping our seniors and people with disabilities living in the community stay safe during a disaster.